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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Honorable Rubén Castillo, Chief Judge | Thomas G. Bruton, Clerk of Court

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Pro Bono Resources for Trial Bar Attorneys

General Information

The Trial Bar Pro Bono Program is governed by Local Rules 83.35 – 83.41 ([LocalRules.aspx?section=83section](#)). Admission to the trial bar and accompanying responsibilities are governed by LR83.11 ([ViewRuleDetails.aspx?rid=93](#)).

If you have general questions about the Trial Bar Pro Bono Program, please contact ProBono_Registration_ILND@ilnd.uscourts.gov (mailto:ProBono_Registration_ILND@ilnd.uscourts.gov).

Conflicts of Interest

Potential conflicts with prior or current clients are at times waivable for pro bono recruitments under the Trial Bar Program. We have established key points of contact with government entities that will assist in reviewing the potential conflict and providing a waiver. Relevant contact information is available here ([_assets/_documents/_rules/Conflict Waiver Information.pdf](#)).

Reimbursement of Expenses

Pursuant to LR83.40 ([ViewRuleDetails.aspx?rid=113](#)), expenses incurred by counsel assigned pursuant to LR83.36 ([ViewRuleDetails.aspx?rid=109](#)), or the firm with which counsel is affiliated, may be reimbursed from the District Court Fund in accordance with Local Regulations.

Regulations Governing the Prepayment and Reimbursement of Expenses in Pro Bono Cases, here ([/_assets/_documents/_forms/_legal/newrules/dcf_e.pdf](#)).

To request prepayment or reimbursement, please use the Court's Pro Bono Expense Form, here ([/_assets/_documents/_forms/_legal/newrules/probono_prepayment_reimbursement_form.pdf](#)).

Prisoner Cases

Written Materials

Guide for Recruited Lawyers in Section 1983 Cases ([_assets/_documents/_rules/Guide for Recruited Lawyers.pdf](#))

"So you've been asked to take a prisoner litigation case ([_assets/_documents/_forms/_judges/johnston/Wasser article.pdf](#)) ", by Stanley Wasser Federal Civil Practice Illinois State Bar Association, Vol 14 No. 4, June 2016, reprinted with permission.

Local Prisoner Litigation Manual (<https://chicagobarfoundation.box.com/s/ck3ni2qg0fevk4b9a94b53lr6b3yzrvl>) (update in progress)

Other helpful resources:

Prisoners' Litigation Self-Help Manual (<https://www.amazon.com/Prisoners-Self-Help-Litigation-Manual-Boston/dp/0195374401>), by John Boston (available for purchase)

Prisoner Civil Rights Video Library (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLINSadcU2fax_6tjG81la9YMdKXCuznp-)

Columbia Law School Jailhouse Lawyers Manual (<http://blogs2.law.columbia.edu/jlm/>)

November 9, 2016 audio file - Anatomy of a Prisoner Civil Rights Case ([_assets/_documents/_forms/_paveyhearing/Chapman 110916 Morning.mp3](#))

November 9, 2016 audio file - Prisoner Medical Claims ([/_assets/_documents/_forms/_paveyhearing/Chapman 110916 Afternoon.mp3](#))






February 8, 2017 video file - Chapman Morning Training ([Pages.aspx?page=Chapman_AMVideo](#))

February 8, 2017 video file - Chapman Afternoon Training ([Pages.aspx?page=Chapman_PMVideo](#))

If you have questions about the procedure or substance of your claims, please contact James P. Chapman, Illinois Institute for Community Law,

jamespchapman@aol.com, 312-593-6998. Jim is a widely recognized expert in prisoner litigation and available to answer questions from volunteer attorneys. Jim also can provide you with information about relevant list serves to connect you with other attorneys locally and nationally who are handling prisoner litigation cases.

Training Videos:

#	Title	MP4 Format
1	Prisoners' Rights Introduction	 (_assets/_videos/_chapman/01 Prisoners Rights_ Introduction.mp4)
2	Prisoners' Rights Pleadings Part I - The Amended Complaint	 (_assets/_videos/_chapman/02 Prisoners Rights_ Pleadings Part I - The Amended Complaint.mp4)
3	Prisoners' Rights Pleadings Part II - Specific Causes of Action	 (_assets/_videos/_chapman/03 Prisoners Rights_ Pleadings Part II - Specific Causes of Action.mp4)
4	Prisoners' Rights Motions in Limine	 (_assets/_videos/_chapman/04 Prisoners Rights_ Motions in Limine.mp4)
		

CLE Programs to help you with your case are offered several times per year, and on-line training will be available in the near future.

Resources regarding **Pavey Hearings** are available here ([Pages.aspx?page=Paveyhearing](#)).

Resources regarding **Settlement Assistance** are available here ([_assets/_documents/The Settlement Assistance Program for Pro Se Litigants.pdf](#)).

Employment Cases

Attorney's Guide to Employment Litigation ([_assets/_documents/_forms/_attorney/2009Title7manual.pdf](#)) (2012)

ADA and ADEA Handbook ([_assets/_documents/_forms/_legal/AmericanDisabilityAct/2009ADAADEADmanual.pdf](#)) (2012)



QUICK LINKS

RECORD LOOKUP & LISTINGS

- > Federal Local Rules Search
- > ILND Member Search Bar
- > Judges' Motion Schedule
- > Court Telephone Directory
- > Federal Record Center Case Record Lookup
- > Naturalization (Citizenship) Ceremonies
- > Pattern Criminal Federal Jury Instructions for the 7th Circuit
- > Pattern Civil Jury Instructions for the 7th Circuit

E-FILING (CM/ECF)

- > CM/ECF Training Registration
- > Request ECF Password Reset
- > CM/ECF Direct Login
- > Request an E-Filing Account
- > CM/ECF Training Videos
- > E-Filing F.A.Q.
- > E-Filing a Complaint

DOWNLOADABLE FORMS

- > Common Case
- > Attorney Forms
- > Criminal Justice Act (CJA)
- > Court Reporter
- > Foreclosure Forms
- > Prisoner Correspondence
- > Representing Yourself
- > Alternative Dispute Resolution (Western Division)

OTHER COURT WEBSITES

- > United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Illinois
- > United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- > Library of the U.S. Courts of the Seventh Circuit
- > Northern District of Illinois Historical Association
- > Northern District of Illinois Pretrial Services
- > Northern District of Illinois Probation

MORE USEFUL LINKS

- > Glossary of Legal Terms
- > U. S. Government Publishing Office Listing of Written Opinions
- > Pilot Project Regarding Initial Discovery Protocols for Employment Cases Alleging Adverse Action
- > National Archives Online Order Procedures
- > Visitors to the Courthouse
- > Policy Regarding Transcripts
- > Judicial Misconduct Complaints
- > Pattern Criminal Federal Jury Instructions for the 7th Circuit
- > Pattern Civil Jury Instructions for the 7th Circuit
- > Model Confidentiality Order Form
- > Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program
- > Settlement Assistance Program for Pro Se Litigants
- > Local Handbooks
- > Media Information

JOB INFORMATION

- > Job Opportunities
- > Law Clerk Hiring Information
- > Oscar
- > Incoming Law Clerk Resource Page

COURTHOUSE INFORMATION

[Click Here \(Pages.aspx?GWv81axJLewVPk7ml8oOh7Jk4O/51vr/\)](#)

EASTERN DIVISION

Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604 ([View Map \(DisplayMap.aspx?loc=chicourt\)](#))

Tel.No. (312) 435-5670

Office Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

WESTERN DIVISION

Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse
327 South Church Street
Rockford, IL 61101 ([View Map \(DisplayMap.aspx?loc=rockcourt\)](#))

Tel.No. (815) 987-4354

Telephone Inquiries: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm